

# Point Three



The Torch magazine  
October 1984 10p





# Point Three

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Letters and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT (Telephone: 0296 623911). Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

Point Three is available from the Toc H Publications Department, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT. (Telephone: 0296 623911). Single copies 10p. Annual subscription: £1.20. Any contribution towards the high cost of postage will be gratefully accepted.



Toc H seeks to create friendship and understanding among people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Local group activities range from holidays for the handicapped and children's playschemes to arts festivals and even bird watching. Toc H is short for Talbot House – the soldiers' club in Belgium founded by the Reverend 'Tubby' Clayton in 1915. Today Toc H provides opportunities for people to test the relevance of practical Christianity and we welcome anyone who would like to give us a try.

Members accept a four fold commitment:

1. To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.
4. To work for the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points – to think fairly.

## Cover picture

'Uncle Brian' helping prepare lunch at Derby's 60th consecutive boys' camp at Osmaston Polo Ground. This year, 90 boys enjoyed nine days of fun and adventure.

Photo: Derby Evening Telegraph

# Personal View

'PRAYER ACROSS THE WORLD' (Toc H and the Third World)

Having taken a minor role in compiling this year's *Prayer Across the World* leaflet, I find myself musing. What action, I ask myself, should arise from the waves of prayer which will sweep across the Toc H family in the latter part of this year? Of course, it is wonderful for the facile print to leap off the page into the minds of members, resulting in a rededication in us all. But is it enough?

We cannot all follow Peter East's example, but he has shown us a way to help the poor, and he does continue to inspire us to use him as a channel of God's will, burnishing the coins we send with his personal compassion. Recently he wrote: *'I am most grateful for all the backing I am getting from you all at Wendover and from the membership. All of us who are in Toc H are very lucky people. I am sure at times we have all grumbled about our organisation, but with all our human failings we are a family, and we do care about each other. And like belonging to any good family I feel I can ask for support. What does at times trouble me is that I receive more than I can give. I suppose all Christians are in the same boat, perhaps I should draw comfort from that. Anyway, thank you all; I do remember you daily when I join you at prayer.'*

Now, we know Peter. He has dwelt among us; he has left behind our relatively comfortable western world to work with the very poor in Bangladesh. Tremendous! But are there not other members of the Toc H family living in other parts of the Third World and helping those in need there? Shall we forget them shortly after we join them on our waves of prayer across the world? For life is a prayer where the Kingdom dwells, both in contemplation and action. One leads to the other. Ideally they are inseparable.

Apart from Peter's Appeal, we normally consider that appeals for help for Third World countries should come from the well known agencies – Christian Aid, Oxfam etc. We are also aware that they have to spend a great deal of the money collected on staff, who travel the globe seeing to it that grants are made through reliable agencies and reach the right people – a very necessary but costly audit which experience teaches them must be done. What we forget, it seems, is that many members of the Toc H family are already in touch with Third World suffering, already helping, and that they know (because they actually live in the country) which of the local organisations and individuals are good and compassionate stewards. I am not suggesting that our members cover more than a tiny part of the needy world. I am saying that, where Toc H is in touch with the greater need than we know in the West, we should consider helping them in their work. In this way we know that any aid will be used for the purpose given, with no deductions to cover staff, travel and administration costs.

Consider Zimbabwe, for example, where drought has killed and impoverished many thousands over the last three years, and where we know the tragedy will continue into the future. We have a membership there we can be proud of. Through them we could channel our aid and love.

There is no major charity here which provides funds for leprosy welfare, but our Branch members of Cochin in Southern India are helping and feeding sufferers from leprosy, and they desperately need funds to do more.

In South Africa our members support the Community Care Scheme in the Valley of a Thousand Hills in Natal. They are bringing nutrition and education to the villages. Nearer Durban, our Toc H family is helping rehabilitate the physically handicapped members of the Coloured community, in their Eleazor Workshops. Money is also needed for the Fourth Dome of the Toc H Centre for Coloured children at Blomvei, Cape Town. We have three Toc H Branches in the Black townships of Soweto and they want to build a children's creche there: the Government will help if Toc H primes the pump. And the new Toc H centre for the disadvantaged, currently being developed in the Transvaal, has cash flow problems.

If Toc H members here want to help those in need, why not use those in our wider Toc H family as channels? We know from the examples of Peter East in Bangladesh and of Don MacKenzie and his successors in South Africa that any help we give will be blessed by local personal compassion – the essence of Toc H. Cannot we make the printed words of *Prayer Across The World* spark action across the physical barriers that separate us from the rest of the Toc H family?

So, when you have done your bit for the Family Purse and for your Region, add to the power of our Toc H wider family by helping them to help others in need. Donations towards any of the work mentioned in this *Personal View* will be forwarded without deduction to Toc H in the countries concerned.

Keith Rea



# Welcome

The following new members were registered during July/August:

## Allestree (W)

Mrs Iris Booth

## Ashby-de-la-Zouch

Revd Trevor Hoggard

## Borough Green (M)

Mr R Chopping

## Huddersfield District

Miss Joanna R Terry

## North Bucks with Oxford District

Mrs Amanda Toward

## North Ormesby (J) Group

Mrs Olwyn Coverdale

Mrs Doris A Knight

Mrs Annie Tindall

Mrs Joyce Tumelty

Mrs Amy Andrews

## Pickering (J)

Charles Porter

## Shirehampton (M)

Stanislaw Mazur

## Wellingborough (M)

George H McGuire

A warm welcome to 13 new members



Photo: Sal Lo Galbo

Sixteen happy youngsters wave goodbye at Market Harborough bus station as they leave with six volunteers for a week of fun at the seaside. Each year Market Harborough Branch arrange and fund this holiday for kids who would not otherwise have one.

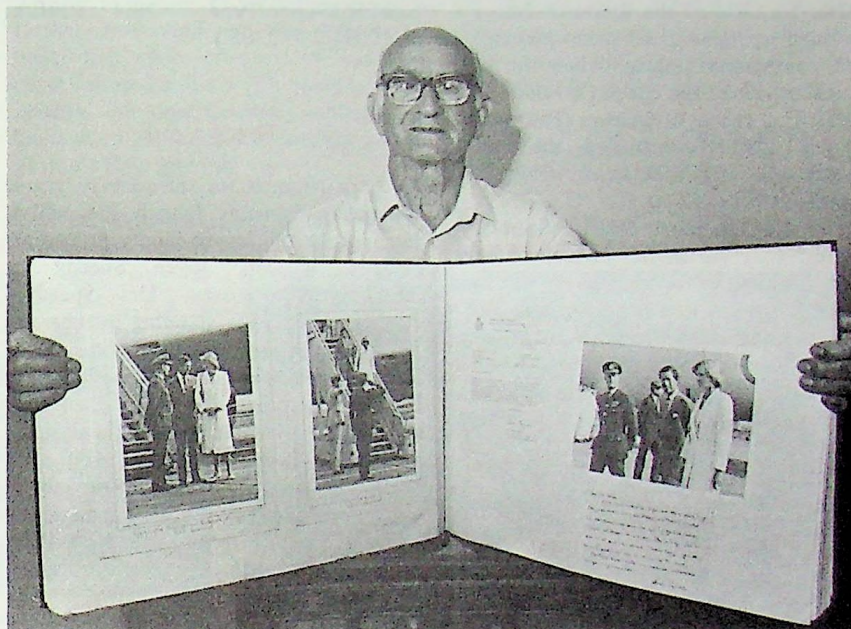


Photo: Express & Echo

Ralph Elston of Exmouth spent more than an hour one day this summer at Buckingham Palace with the Prince of Wales' private secretary and Princess Diana's lady-in-waiting. A major part of Ralph's social history hobby over the past two years has been a words and picture study of the royal couple's wedding. When he spoke to Budleigh Salterton Branches, members were so impressed that the Secretary wrote to the Palace. Hence the invitation and the most enjoyable visit.

Photo: Dick Moody



Ravenscroft Primary School in Clacton won the Toc H (Harold Burgess Memorial) Sports Shield this year. The many members who knew Harold will recall his concern that Toc H should mean something to children as well as to their parents.

## King George's Jubilee Trust plans a lively 'Golden' year

Three generations of young people who have been helped with grants from Britain's first Royal youth charity are being invited to join present-day under 25s in celebrating its 50th birthday next year (IYY) with music, theatre, dance and fun.

In 1935, King George's Jubilee Trust set out 'to assist the physical, mental and spiritual development of young people' with £1 million, the total donated by the people to George V's Silver Jubilee Appeal.

Today, the Trust has assets of more than £7 million, having paid out more than £5 million in cash grants over the years to voluntary youth organisations.

Early beneficiaries are among those who are planning the 1985 celebration programme. This will begin in March with a thanksgiving service at St Paul's.

During the summer months, there will be fun days, receptions, theatre workshops, music festivals to interest

all ages, but with special opportunities for young people to take part. There are plans to launch a nationwide 'Give Us A Go' project which will enable young enthusiasts to take control of an activity of their own choice. Supporting programmes are being planned for Scotland and Wales.

(For further details contact John Pervin, Programme Administrator, The Royal Jubilee Trusts, 8 Buckingham Street, London WC2N 6BU, Tel: 01 930 9811).



# Round and about

## A fine 'first' for Sevenoaks!

This summer, Sevenoaks District mounted their first ever District project. After much discussion, they decided to throw a party for elderly disabled and housebound people from Hackney. Prideaux House promised to send them 53 (plus helpers); an ad hoc committee was set up; the District's seven Branches offered food and help.

On the day, mountains of food and oceans of tea were prepared while the visitors were touring the Kent countryside. The happy and hungry guests rapidly demolished 150 sausage rolls, 100 filled rolls and 200 cakes, helped on their way by 150 cups of tea! After tea, one of the disabled visitors – nothing wrong with his piano playing! – led community singing. When the time came to reload the coach (*'a rather jolly affair'*), a group of helpers (Pentecostal Group Singers) serenaded the happy guests who left *'with much waving and goodbyes'*.

Ken Hallifax, District Secretary, writes: *'... We all felt pleased to have been involved with these elderly disabled and to have shed a little joy into their lives ... Of course we also got a great deal of satisfaction from the project which was a first time for us as a District – but, I am sure, not the last ... We are now planning our next venture'*.

## They keep on coming!

Ted Curry tells us that, for the eighth year running, Northampton Branch has taken 40 old folk on a day trip to Misterton Hall. They always have a great welcome there. The bookings to tour the gardens have been arranged by Age Concern for the past 13 years and there is no drop in demand. Over that period, 1,058 groups have visited the Hall and its gardens – a total of almost 56,000 people.

## It's holiday time!

David Lloyd Williams, recently chosen as North Wales Area Secretary, sends us news of activity in the Conwy District. Bangor Joint Branch gave a marvellous holiday this summer to 25 Belfast children. Colwyn Bay Men's Branch again provided a week's summer holiday for handicapped children. Conwy Men's Branch always take the children on holiday in our Rhyl camp for one day during their stay – this is a highlight in every Rhyl holiday week.

## Jim wants old dolls!

Jim Gardiner, Tyne and Wear District Chairman sends us the news of a splendid donation they have received towards the cost of providing a specially adapted minibus for the handicapped. It came as a gift of £200 from Newcastle's Students Union.

The District is also working towards improving its 1983 record of providing holidays at Toc H Centres for some 200 needy and handicapped. One of their novel fundraising methods is to collect old dolls and recondition them for sale. Jim would be delighted to receive old dolls from anyone. You can contact him at 8 Dobson Close, Cruddas Park, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE4 7EA. (Tel: 091 2 732305.)

## Thank you!

In every summer for the past 20 years, Gravesend Women's Branch has paid a day visit to the lovely family home and gardens of Mrs Joyce Speedy in Crowborough, Sussex. Mrs Speedy's mother was a long standing member of Gravesend Branch. When she died, her daughter, wishing to do something for Toc H in her mother's memory, offered this annual hospitality. The Branch Secretary writes: *'... We would all like to thank Joyce and her whole family for their kindness and to wish her and her husband a happy retirement. We will do our best to be with you again next year'*.

## The Newsome Annual

Newsome (Huddersfield) Men's Branch report a most enjoyable outing they gave for the local housebound – a project the Branch has carried out annually for 20 years. On this occasion, some 80 guests were carried in specially adapted welfare coaches on a tour of the Yorkshire countryside. Each coachload included one escorting member from the Branch plus a member of the St John Ambulance Brigade. Meanwhile, the remaining Branch members, with wives and friends, prepared a fine meal in a most attractive dining room setting. (25 meals were taken to those unable to make the trip.)

Again, the Branch express their thanks to the St John volunteers, to the manager and staff of the M62's Hartshead Service Area for their great care and consideration, and to the many, many friends and helpers who made the whole thing possible.

## Still in Huddersfield!

Paddock Women's Branch had a fascinating tour of the House of Commons as guests of their MP. The invitation followed a visit to the Branch by the MP's wife who spoke to them about the life of a 'Wife at Westminster'.

For many years, Paddock have subscribed to support a leper child. With rising costs, they now have to mount a special function each year to top up their subscriptions. This year they held a coffee evening to which friends and neighbours were invited: this served the dual purpose of raising funds and of telling more people about our concerns.

## Hush, hush!

We hear from the Pilot of Chippenham Men's Branch of the happy time members and their wives had on the first of a series of Wednesday 'quiet days' at Cuddesdon House. A warm welcome from Colin Rudd was followed by Holy Communion in the recently dedicated chapel. The rest of the day was divided between talks and peaceful wanderings in grounds and village. No one regretted the 150 mile round journey and they plan to increase their numbers next time and to share these happy days with members of other Branches.

## Congratulations to ...

Oldham Women's Branch on celebrating their birthday with a visit to Alison House. On a fine sunny day, some 50 members and friends were present for a buffet lunch served in the garden. The Branch is asking for suggestions on how to celebrate their anniversary next year – any bright ideas? ...

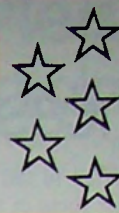
Hemel Hempstead Women's Branch who celebrated their 50th birthday in June with speeches, much talk, a buffet and entertainment. Some 70 members shared in the celebration ...

Bargoed Women's Branch who in July mounted a *'This is your life'* evening for founder member and Branch Pilot May Edwards. Those taking part included three other founder members, May's children and grandchild and many friends from Toc H and other bodies which have shared in May's life work. At 81 years old, May remains a very active member ...





# 'LETTER FROM AMERICA' - II



by Margaret McGettrick

Note: This is the last in this series. Margaret and her husband should have returned to the UK by the time you read this, though, at the time of writing, the date was not finally known. Editor

I am writing this letter in May on Memorial Day — a public holiday when Americans remember their war dead. On many people's minds today is Vietnam where 58,000 American Servicemen were killed. The remains of an unknown soldier, returned to the US, have been lying in state awaiting burial today. One of the most moving moments of our travels, was to visit the simple, yet poignant, Vietnam war memorial in Washington. It stands as a stark reminder of the futility of war.

Vietnam still affects many Americans. Though the Vietnam War didn't touch

most Americans directly, it certainly affected those who fought in it: these veterans returned to an America indifferent to the horrors of the war they had lived through. Many have found it difficult, some impossible, to re-adjust to normal life. There is a sense of bitterness and frustration at America's lack of pride and respect for those who so nobly fought under the flag of a country they believed in. Yet the veterans returned as unsung heroes — no parades, no applause, no acclaim. For those with relatives missing in action (2,500) the agony is further prolonged by the widespread belief that many prisoners of war were never released and are still being kept for political purposes. Growing publicity has highlighted the issue and created a great deal of public interest.

On this Memorial Day, I can join my

prayers with America's and remember the widows, the bereaved, the war disabled, the psychologically damaged, the dead and ask the question, 'Was it worth it?' To see the cost, the on-growing cost on people's lives, of war should make us think in terms of peace and how to prevent future wars. I say a big 'thank you' today to those who have risked their lives to preserve a better way of life for me and for others, even if those 'others' are unknown to me. To those war dead I say 'thank you' for dying for me: today I'd like to do a little dying for you. Accept my prayers of thanks: may they speed you on to a much better life in a truly peaceful world.

*Yours ever  
Margaret*

Photo: The Express



Earlier this year, Bargoed (Mid-Glam) Women's Branch handed over a cheque for £250 towards Parkinson's Disease Research. The sum was raised by a series of Branch coffee mornings.

Photo: Torbay Herald Express



In July, Paignton Men's Branch entertained some 70 guests at an open 'Guest Day'. The main presentations were a display of the Branch's history prepared by Roy Williams (founder member) and Peter Pedrick and an address by Gilbert Francis, now Toc H Commissioner in Germany. 'A memorable day!'

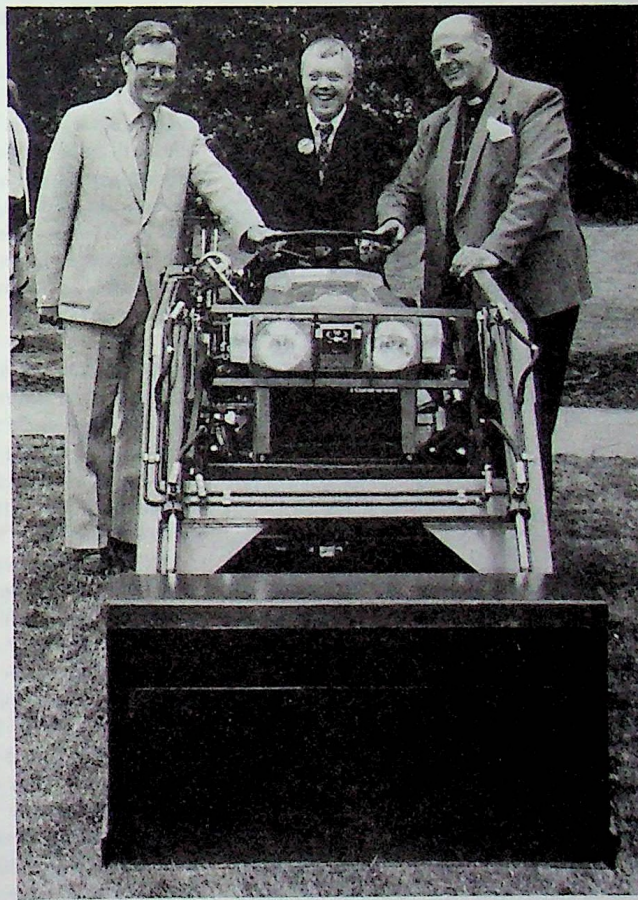


Photo: Crawley News

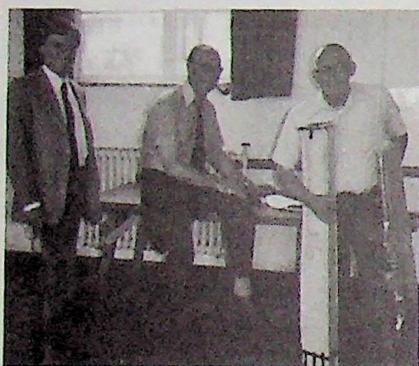
Following a talk by Revd Edgar Wallace, the girls of Bedgebury School, Hawkhurst, helped to raise cash to buy a new tractor for Ifield Hall. This centre for the handicapped — part of Edgar's Crawley development — includes gardens, stables and a range of workshops.



## Day Conferences

Thanet District have written to tell us of some of the results for them of the Day Conference in Maidstone last February. Some 50 Thanet members attended and some of them met a Hythe member who had once been a member of Margate Men's Branch. Between them, they agreed to share activities not only among Branches, but across Districts. In June, Hythe visited Margate Branches and all present shared news of their Toc H activities. A return visit on similar lines was made in August. On this occasion, Bob Mills (formerly Toc H staff, now Warden of Fern Street Settlement in East London) was present to talk about his work. Bob has already built up a liaison between his Settlement and Hythe and there are now plans to extend this to Thanet.

*All this started from the wider vision seen at the Maidstone Day Conference. If you have any news of change or extended commitment arising from this or any of the Day Conferences, please write to tell us.*



Three members of the Exeter Day Conference Team (L to R Tim Day, Gerry Conibeer and 'Curly' Hunt) prepare their presentations.



Photo: Nicholas Evans

Volunteers spent two separate weeks helping staff run holidays for physically and mentally handicapped children in this purpose built home in South Glamorgan.

# Those Early Years

by Les Wheatley

I first saw the light of day far away on the banks of the Tyne — as good a place as any to start life and in some ways better than almost anywhere else. Going back there for a year or two after an absence of over 30 years, I recall vividly a sense of rejoining a tribe, of taking up a rightful place again amongst the ranks of Geordies, of 'belongingness'. With an easy facility for remembering faces, it was something of a shock to me and no doubt to them to see how old many of us had become!

Life at that time and in that part of the world was somewhat hard, I recall. Natives of the territory, knowing little of existence elsewhere, accepted poverty through unemployment as well as climatic conditions as natural to everyday life and spent little time bemoaning their lot. There were many excitements to indulge in, not the least being a growing awareness of life beyond the North. Families were born into and remained on their different levels of social organisation. One introduction to all kinds of facts and fancies was through the new medium of wireless: finding the right spot on the crystal sent one into raptures of discovery. Travel was another but this was severely restricted to the use of 'shanks's pony', or, in a spell of exceptional affluence, a bicycle, very secondhand. By dint of hard work and some ingenuity this contraption was induced to convey one on many voyages of discovery. So it was that one developed a realisation of life 'just round the corner' and this in itself created a low level of excitement and wonder.

During these early years, a human disaster occurred, the consequences of which are still working their way through in everyday life. I was a schoolboy when the holocaust of World War One began and ended and its disturbance of life everywhere began to build up inexorably. It was at this early stage of world awareness, national and international, that Toc H with its 'Everyman' concept blossomed. The breakdown of barriers between man and man and between classes of men had begun. No one will claim that the tiny Movement of Toc H was responsible for this — history had provided the impetus — but Tubby and the early pioneers of the Movement captured the contemporary 'stirring of the spirit' and introduced many thousands of men to a new view of life.

Men were beginning to move between the horizontal planes of social structure and becoming aware of the mixture of experiences found in any cross section of

human society. The dynamic of Toc H stemmed from bringing together on a day to day basis men of vastly different outlooks and conviction — of religion, of politics, of social upbringing — and creating a relationship that transcended all the divisions. The excitement of such discoveries was terrific and Toc H bubbled over with the effervescence created. In addition, the theory of brotherhood was nailed firmly to the floor in practical forms of service to those in need. Social service thus became a vehicle (hitherto largely confined to those with the inclination (and obligation) and the time and the opportunity) for the man-in-the-street — Everyman. This opened up new aspects of life to men who were finding that the other chap had a point of view different from their own but just as valid. It was a process that extended its influence far beyond those who committed themselves to formal membership and Toc H could rightly claim to be a leaven in the lump of local society.

Between the wars, the steady growth of Toc H manifested itself in the increasing number of groupings of men (as well as women at this time) both at home and overseas who were trying out in local communities this broadening concept of life. Had the second disaster of World War Two not occurred, this process would no doubt have slowed down to evolutionary pace. But the second disaster did occur and natural progression was jolted out of its groove and ran freely where it would. We found ourselves, as someone said, between two worlds, one dead, the other not yet born. Looking around the world today one cannot but feel that we are still in the process of being born, though that is too simplistic a term for our condition. We can see now that all those early values, bad as many of them were, had a stability that is denied us today. The recognisable horizontal divisions (but now vertical, diagonal and at every other conceivable geometric angle) are no longer easily identifiable. Toc H today is a much more individual affair. No longer are the divergences of society found on recognisable planes. That these divergences do exist is of course without question but they are no longer centre stage — there are many more fundamental differences to contend with in which truth is the main casualty. This I believe is the standard on which Toc H must set its sights. If Toc H can base its outreach on the value and beauty of truth, then it will continue to give witness to a standard that is as eternal as the brotherhood of man.



# BE STILL then....

Should you require Bible Reading Fellowship Notes and find difficulty in obtaining them at your local church, we can send them from here. The Publications Department at Wendover now has copies of 'Joyful Journey' — the replacement volume for 'Yours is the Glory', which is out of print. The price is £1 (+ 50p p & p). The Chaplain will send you the complete list of daily intercessions on request. (Revised October 1984.)

## BORDON LETTER

by Winnie Nelson

I want to share a few thoughts with you that I had the other evening concerning three things. They were: a. Two floral arrangements — one a single red rose in an arrangement of evergreen leaves, the other, white carnations amongst the leaves and spiked seed heads of Hebe. b. A salt pot, and c. Lighthouses. A strange mixture of thoughts — what had they in common?

On looking deeper at the floral arrangements, one saw the beauty of two individual types of flowers, the rose and the carnation, each different in size, shape of petals, colour, but each with its own superb beauty. And the leaves. There were the plain green gloss of the Laurel, the yellow centre with green edges of the *Elaeagnus Pungens*, the green centre with pale lemon edges of the variegated *Periwinkle Major*, and the still different marking of the *Golden Privet*. The spiked seed heads and oblong leaves of the Hebe contrasted with the rounded heads of the carnations. Each was an individual with its own individual beauty, none was striving to be what the other one was, each was content to be itself as its Creator made it, each complemented the other to give so much pleasure, joy and beauty.

The salt pot is one of a pair bought many years ago, so shaped that they caricature two in conversation if placed in a certain position: they are affectionately known as Blib and Blob. Blib (the salt) reminded me of a story I heard as a child, a simple story, but worth retelling. There was once a King who had three charming daughters whom he loved dearly, but wanted to test their love for him, so he gave them each the same question to answer within a week. The question was 'How much am I worth to you?' This set the three girls pondering because they too loved their father dearly. In due course the eldest daughter's answer was 'as much as all the gold in the world'. The next gave her

answer as 'as much as all the silver and jewels in the world'. These answers made the King very pleased and happy and he wondered what the youngest daughter would say. Her answer was, 'as much as all the salt in the world'. This somewhat displeased her father, hearing himself equated with common salt. However, our young Princess, determined to prove her point, asked the cook to leave all the salt out of the food the following day. There was much consternation and frayed tempers caused by the unappetizing meals until our young Princess upped and said 'You see, Daddy, how valuable salt is'. Yes, we can do without gold, silver, and jewels, but life would be very unpalatable without salt.

Where do Lighthouses come into all this? Having spent many holidays in the West Country, and seen the many Lighthouses around its coastline, I came to realise their importance. Each is built mainly to the same structural design, but each has its own individual light, signal and sound. Lightships at Land's End stick to their own signals, not wanting to copy the signals at The Lizard or St Anthony's at Falmouth, and so on round the world. Each individual signal or sound guides men lost in the darkness of the vast seas, each guides men through the rocky passages and reefs, each guides men safely into harbour, each guides men setting out on their journeys across the vast oceans by that wonderful beam of light that it is impossible for the darkness to penetrate.

My thoughts then turn to a youngish man talking to an enthusiastic group of friends in particular, and to a crowd of people in general. The crowd had followed the little group to hear what this man was talking about because he spoke so differently from all the others they were used to hearing. He was telling his friends that he wanted them to be like salt, to give flavour to the world with goodness, by the way they lived their lives, by what they said, thought, and did. He wanted them to be like light, to guide people lost in the world, to guide people through the rocky passages and reefs of a troubled world, to bring people safely into the harbour of their lives, and to guide people setting out on life's journey. He invited them to be a beam of light which no

## Please Note It's almost 1985!

'We need to present Toc H in today's language — not yesterday's!'

This was the general view of an informal gathering which met in August to discuss our future.

We plan another informal weekend at Wendover (25 to 27 January 1985 — cost £5) to have a go at updating the basic Toc H statements.

This weekend is open to members and friends of all ages and experience.

Enquiries and applications to: Ruth Wallner, 386 Kingsland Road, Dalston, London E8.

## Friends of the Old House

We have just heard from Doris Longley, Secretary of the Friends, who is recovering from a major operation. Doris asks us to tell you that the biennial Reunion — due in November this year — has been postponed. The plan is to hold the next one in 1985 — the centenary year of Tubby's birth.

darkness could penetrate. To help them to understand what he was saying and to give them help, he drew their attention to the flowers around them, pointing out the individual beauty of each flower, illustrating to them the Creator, their Father's unlimited knowledge of each one's individual need — man's or that of the flowers of field and garden. He implored them not to worry about what assets they would have in, say, five years time, not to worry how many would be in their 'Movement' next year, or in ten years time, not to worry about where their resources would come from. All their needs would be provided for if only they would get on with the job they had been given to do that day, however humble, or great. It was today that mattered, not tomorrow, or the next day, or next year, but today. Their Father, he said, would look after all the tomorrows if they would only trust Him and leave everything in His hands.

Yes; flower arrangements, salt pots, lighthouses, do have a lot in common.

May God give to each one of us in Toc H His blessing to be like the flowers, the salt, and the light, and most of all, to put our trust in Him.



# IS THERE LIFE AFTER PRO

Five years of leading projects and you think that you know it all! By then you can cope with the odd drunken volunteer, deal with a little glue sniffing, lost children and irate locals with broken windows. Anyway your responsibility only lasts to the end of the week, doesn't it?

Are not projects really only about giving people who would otherwise not get one, a holiday or outing to remember? Or is this the soft option?

What happens where you leave off? Have you ever asked yourself whether we create a new perspective on life that will stay with a young person into adulthood? Or do we merely give a glimpse of something better and then snatch it away again?

Conventional projects are run, by and large, among adults and children who are disadvantaged by environment or disability. For a week or so we help them forget and hopefully develop themselves a little too. A good leader will maintain some after-project contact with volunteers but the most contact the participants get is usually a slide show or get together a few weeks later. So how do we know what happens after projects, for them?

Until a couple of years ago that was fine by me — there was always the next project to look forward to. Until, that is, I changed my 'client group' somewhat. Instead of working with



if I don't? Who will help him kick glue? Who will help her solve her horrendous family problems? Who will teach the dynamic duo to lead projects?

All right, countless thank you letters and phone calls later, I am not going to chicken out of this one. 'Good for you' I hear you say.

Ah, yes, but wait a minute, they have formed a youth group, Newcastle Unemployed Youth Group. They feel a part of the organisation that gave them this opportunity, but what do I tell them about Toc H? Some well meaning person has already told them that they cannot use a name connected with Toc H, not even 'Learning for Leisure'. Of course I'll tell them about what Toc H means to me, about the fact that there are no barriers, just principles that we undertake to work towards.

Then I will tell them about youth groups within Toc H, and the sort of things that they do, which are not radically different from the sorts of things that they want to do. They will probably want to be a Toc H youth group.

But will we accept them? Did we accept the Friendship Circles in the North East? Or did we write them off as 'clients'?

Are you prepared to see people with this type of background as part of the Toc H that you know? Do you write them off as vandals, criminals, wasters, addicts? Because at one time or another society has written off most of them under this sort of heading.

Right now Toc H holds the end of a frail lifeline. We can strengthen that lifeline by our support, or we can tie it

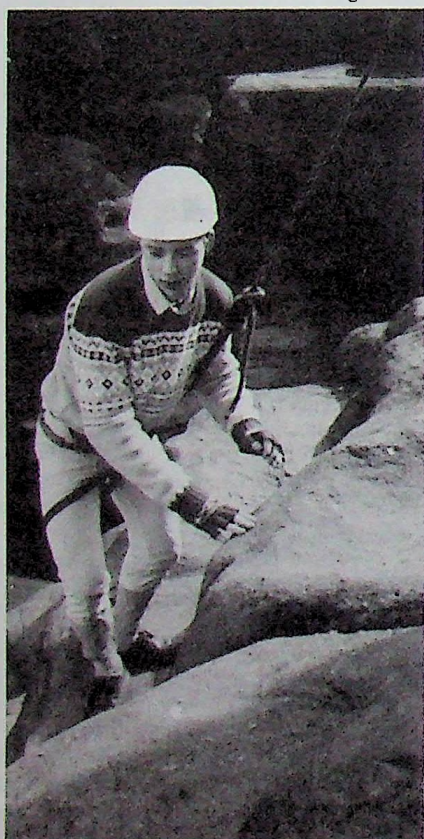
disadvantaged children, my attention was turned to what happened to them later in life.

The answer is simple — long term unemployment, especially if they live in the North. At best this is the key to frustration and despair, at worst to drugs, glue and crime.

Initially, week long and weekend projects were organised. We called them 'Learning for Leisure' and tried to ensure that there was some degree of follow up after the project, to ensure that the theme of new leisure activities was carried through. When they got back home, they had virtually nothing to look forward to — no job no money, no future and precious little self respect. We showed them the door and then unintentionally, but effectively, slammed it in their faces at the end of the week...

During the second week of July this year, the third Newcastle 'Learning for Leisure' week took place at Port Penrhyn. We had our ups and downs and, had I waved goodbye to them in Wales, I would probably be settled back into my comfortable middle class routine by now, without much thought for inner city Newcastle. It was sharing their triumphal entry to the land of Geordies, singing 'Scotswood Road' and that unprintable Wembley song that did for my complacency.

How could I just throw them back without a lifeline? Will anybody else care





# QUESTIONS

by Maggie Kay



back on to the State, which will in all probability sever it with the next round of cuts.

It is impossible to strengthen that lifeline without commitment: just nodding sagely and agreeing is totally insufficient. We need centrally and at Branch level to take on a corporate responsibility for the young unemployed. Nobody else has, and probably nobody else will.

Their sense of isolation, bewilderment and despair is matched only by the very trenches that gave rise to this Movement: they wallow, not in the blood of their comrades, but in the shreds of their self respect.



The following statistics and statement are taken from a leaflet on Work Sharing prepared by Stephen Hill – a lecturer in the Department of Economics and Banking in the University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology (UWIST)

## 1. International Unemployment Rates (October 1983)

Japan	2.6%	France	8.6%
Sweden	3.6%	USA	8.7%
Italy	5%	Canada	11.1%
W Germany	7.2%	United Kingdom	13.3%

## 2. Regional Unemployment Rates (January 1984)

South East	9.8%	W Midlands	15.3%
E Anglia	11%	Scotland	15.7%
S West	11.9%	N West	16.1%
E Midlands	12.1%	Wales	16.5%
Yorkshire/		North	17.6%
Humberside	14.3%	N Ireland	22%

(These figures relate to claimants only. They include school leavers and are not seasonally adjusted.)

## 3. Age Distribution of Long Term Unemployed (October 1983)

(Those claiming benefit for more than 12 months)

a. Under 25	338,989
b. 25–34	257,209
c. 35–49	278,064
d. 50–59	242,201

... Traditional policies to reduce unemployment cannot eliminate the unemployment problem. Clearly Governmental macroeconomic policy *can* reduce the level of unemployment by, for example, the stimulation of aggregate demand. However, the indications are that such a policy would *not* create an extra three million jobs. The introduction of new technology has broken the link between new investment and job creation, so that much of current new investment is concerned with *replacing* rather than *creating* employment. . .

(Stephen Hill)

# WHAT CAN WE DO?

1. We could allow them to develop through the voluntary work that we provide. Three of my Newcastle friends have now been on Toc H projects as volunteers. Their sense of achievement has been matched only by their relief at getting away from the everyday routine and inertia of unemployment. We could set aside places on national and local projects specifically for unemployed volunteers and leaders. If just one place was available for this type of volunteer on each project we run, we would be offering an opportunity beyond price.

2. We could provide the finance to help them take part. None of my Newcastle friends has sufficient resources to lay out the cash for even a £20 train ticket. We could make a deal with British Rail or National Express that would ensure free railcards for example. Finance from Government, Grants or Trusts related to the unemployed should

help us meet this cost. We must be prepared to buy and send tickets or cash, in advance.

3. We could make sure that project leaders are equipped to understand their problems, and to help them develop within the project.

4. We could offer real encouragement through the Branch network. My heart goes out to Colwyn Bay Branch, who have already offered two of the Newcastle group the opportunity to lend their experience to the setting up of a 'Learning for Leisure' project. Those two are currently collecting as much project experience as possible to help them on their way.

5. We could spread this sort of involvement throughout the Movement. **We need people and unemployed people need us.**



# 'A HUNDRED LETTERS' by John Mitchell

During Autumn 1983, John wrote to 100 members or participants in Toc H, asking them why they were in Toc H, and whether it had changed them. Half these letters were sent to members in traditional Branches, and half to younger people involved in youth groups or projects. Last month the focus was on what they had to say about 'Mixture'.

### 3. 'Service'

It will be no surprise to anyone familiar with Toc H that a high proportion of those who replied indicated that it was the appeal to 'come and help' which first involved them in the Movement. From Branch members come comments such as: 'I joined originally because I wanted to help the War effort' and 'I am involved because I caught a glimpse of a "caring family" in the great flood of 1947'.

Equally, many younger participants indicate that they were anxious to do some 'service' and their choice of Toc H was largely arbitrary: 'It was by chance that I volunteered for a summer playscheme, having browsed through myriads of charity booklets in the local library' writes a project leader, while another volunteer explains: 'Toc H was a vehicle through which I could demonstrate my concern for the welfare of others by means of service'.

A volunteer who eventually joined the staff writes: 'I had done some community work at school, and was keen to do more — Toc H offered such a wide variety of projects with different groups' . . . and another volunteer is engagingly frank when she says: 'Toc H was a means to an end — and I didn't know anything about the organisation itself'.

The concept of Toc H as a vehicle recurs more than once: 'Toc H gives me the means by which I can transform all my good intentions into practical service, for just a day, or as a long term volunteer', and, in similar vein: 'I have a need to do something for other people as well as following my own interests, ambitions and inclinations. Toc H has provided and continues to provide a means of fulfilling this'.

It is also abundantly clear from many replies, from both older and younger, that half the attraction is that 'service' can be 'fun', and is not a chore. An older member emphasises the fact that Toc H provided him with an 'enjoyable' means of making a contribution to society, and a younger participant writes: 'When people in a group are working, and having a laugh together — especially in a high-pressured residential situation like a Toc H project — I'm sure that this was the way people ought to live together — not because it is morally correct or anything stuffy like that, but because it just feels so right'. Amen to that. A young man from the Midlands writes: 'Fun. If you didn't enjoy Toc H I wouldn't come along, as I don't see myself as a martyr or social do-gooder'.

There is, perhaps understandably, an anxiety among many of those who wrote that the service they carry out doesn't make them a 'do-gooder'. An older, but new, member writes: 'Blatant do-gooding I have always regarded with some suspicion; my own experience has been that it often causes more harm than good. Toc H, I imagined was a sort of 'do-good' movement. I found it is, but with its feet on the ground, firmly, without undue sentimentality. I liked this!' and he later writes: 'I began to see Toc H as a most admirable movement containing so many admirable people who go about "doing good" in a quiet fashion. So I became involved rather than just a member'.

The younger folk seem even more anxious to avoid the 'do-gooder' label. A girl from Sussex writes: 'On the projects I can feel that I am making myself useful without feeling like the infamous "do-gooder". This is because I get just as much out of the projects as those people we are there to help . . . and I must admit I do like to feel needed'.

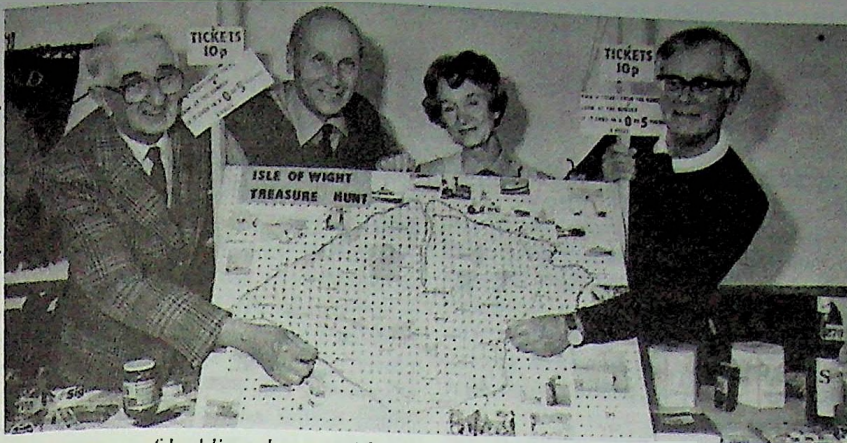
Maybe she has quietly put her finger on the very nub of what stops genuine caring becoming 'do-goodery', and that, surely, is the acceptance of the fact that the helper receives every bit as much from the relationship as the helped, and when the relationship is accepted as being of reciprocal value and pleasure, then fears about 'do-goodery' vanish. Many correspondents testified to that reciprocity: 'Toc H has taught me to understand the pleasure of giving' — 'We may give something to them, but they give much more to us . . .' — 'It gives me great joy to see others . . . benefit from my help' — 'It meets my needs as well as helping me meet the needs of others' — ' . . . the more you 'dare' to give, the more you receive in terms of genuine friendship . . .' — 'It's that sense of great caring and openness that provokes a similar response in the recipient, so it is a two-way process' — 'I am in Toc H because I love people, and if I can help or give pleasure to someone, I get as much, or more, out of it as them'.

Two other messages come from these replies. That you are never too old, and that you are never too busy. A pensioner writes 'I am a firm believer that Service is the rent we pay for our room on earth. I wish more older members would remember this . . . The members I have met in their '60s, even '80s, astonish me with their energy in doing jobs for others, even though the jobs may be small, reading to someone, shopping, or even just listening . . .' and a young engineer, making a career in Electronics, writes: 'No-one within Toc H should be saying "But I haven't got time". We can always make one day. There is also variety, so no-one can say "there's nothing available that I want to do".'

And let the last word be from a Branch member whose letter finishes: 'Just one little incident convinced me that I was part of a winning team. I had occasion to give a helping hand when it was needed, and the person turned round and said, quite sincerely, "Thank you for your help, but then, you're a Toc H man, so that explains why you gave it".'

(Next month's theme is 'Fairmindedness')





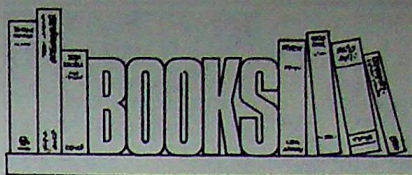
Ninety trays of bedding plants vanished in a couple of hours at Seaford's Toc H Spring Fair. The plants, produce stalls and treasure hunt raised almost £250 towards the Branch's minibus fund. (See article 'SPASM' in August's Point Three)



The Salvation Army Young People's Singing Company entertained at Strode Park and Herne Joint Branch's 1984 Family Day. (See 'Round and About' in our August issue.)



Milford-on-Sea (Hants) Joint Branch recently celebrated 16 unbroken years of serving their 'Friday lunches'. These low cost meals are open to anyone but they are specially appreciated by the elderly, the lonely and newcomers to the town. Incidentally, the weekly raffle helps the Branch's contributions to Family Purse and to local appeals. All the lunch helpers - some of whom have been involved since the beginning - celebrated this 16th anniversary with a buffet meal (and, of course, a birthday cake!)



## 'CHRISTMAS GREETINGS'

Phil Mason has come up with something slightly different from his usual booklets. This is a combined gift card/booklet designed as a companion for the seven days of Christmas and a keepsake for the days ahead. He has collated some little gems which make for easy reading and deeper thought. The 12 small pages can be read in almost as many minutes; but I guarantee they will be read many times over, particularly during the Christmas holiday period. The men and women featured are basically ordinary people, whose character and better nature bubble to the surface in the face of adversity. For many, Christmas can be a sad and lonely time; but here is a message of faith, love and hope to sustain us. Good value and something for your friends to treasure.

'Christmas Greetings' costs 50p (including envelope) from bookshops, or 50p plus stamp from Norheimsund Books & Cards, 1 Whitney Road, Burton Latimer, Kettering, Northants NN15 5SL.

Eileen Clark

## 'WORKING WITH SELF-HELP GROUPS'

This book (by Ann Richardson, a Senior Fellow at the Policy Studies Institute) is designed for volunteers as well as professionals. It includes a brief explanation of what self help groups are and how they work but primarily it is a guide for working with them. The author explores carefully the various means by which 'outsiders' can support and encourage such groups and give them practical help. The book gives a wide, practical reading list and names and addresses of many useful organisations.

'Working with Self-Help Groups' is published by Bedford Square Press/NCVO at £2.50. If not available in your bookshop, the book can be obtained by post (cost £2.80 inclusive) from Macdonald & Evans Distribution Services Ltd, Estover Road, Plymouth PL6 7PZ.

Each year in Shirehampton, floats in the Scout Carnival compete for the Toc H cup - awarded by Shirehampton Men's Branch. In the foreground of the picture are this year's Toc H route marshals.



# Open Forum

Photo: East Essex Gazette



'A day to be remembered' was Violet Boyd's description of the first royal garden party at Buckingham Palace to be attended by her and her husband Bill. Bill and Violet have been members in Essex for many years. Some 25 years ago, they founded Clacton's St Raphael Club for the physically handicapped and they are still running it.

## Congratulations!



We all send our warmest congratulations and good wishes to Toc H President Lancelot Prideaux-Brune, who celebrates his 90th birthday on 17 October.

### What is a member?

I can understand the argument of Stan Cowdrey (August issue) when he says that membership must mean acceptance of the Christians basis of the Movement. To me this is not the main issue, which is more of a challenge to the Branch, than to the new member.

Before the Four Points, or the Main Resolution, we were asked to pass Toc H on to future generations. You need new people first before you can debate what they should believe. For me this frontier, where we meet people who don't know Toc H, makes our Movement come alive. The sort of letters that John Mitchell is sharing with us in his current articles show we are on the right track.

Being open to new people can be a bruising experience. It is much easier to stay together with the same Branch or Group. The Christian basis of Toc H challenges us to be an open organisation, giving people their chance to find their way to God. I am overwhelmed to think Christ wants to use me in this task. If Toc H is a channel for the Holy Spirit, and I am sure that is true, then the defence of the Christian basis of our Movement is in strong hands — as long as we continue to be relevant. It is only in giving it away that our faith will be strengthened, and a new person see how the love of God works — 'No Strings'

John Dickson  
Solihull

### Miners and 'the bomb'

In your August *Personal View*, you talk about a 'free society'. In nuclear matters, it is the abuse of this 'free society' both in this country and in the USA, which in large part has brought us to the perilous position in which we find ourselves today — grossly overarmed and in imminent peril of the total destruction of all life on this planet. An exaggeration? I read in an article in *The Guardian* that Soviet and Western scientists agree on this prediction. The somewhat slim hope for the future (but worth campaigning for in my view) is a halt in the manufacture of nuclear weapons and a gradual run down, accompanied by a realistic build up of conventional defence forces. CND has been much maligned and great efforts made to discredit its aims. I joined last autumn, awoken out of slumber by the news of Cruise missiles being based here. I find a wide range of views expressed within the organisation, but all are agreed on the one fundamental point.

I am broadly against the nuclear power programme because a by-product

of some of these stations is plutonium, which is used in bomb manufacture. For that reason, I am on the miners' side. I would like to see an increase in coal powered generating stations and more research into the use of wind and wave power generation. It is true that the Queensbury Rules are being broken in the course of this mining dispute and this is regrettable. Altering your closing words slightly and adapting them to my own, I would put it like this. If we do not give full backing to CND and the battle is lost, I fear the consequences for us all . . .

Dick Crump  
Carshalton

### It's almost 1985!

I feel that the language in which the Four Points of the Compass are couched is out of date. Surely Toc H should be encouraging young people to become members. If that is so, should not the aims of the Movement be set down in words that young people can identify with?

I have been involved with Toc H for six years but have never become a member because of the wording of the Fourth Point. I believe that Toc H is about being together, sharing, caring and accepting. I don't know why I believe in these things but I am not ready to say that it is because I believe in the Kingdom of God.

Toc H talks about pulling down barriers but doesn't the Fourth Point prevent people with different religious beliefs from becoming members? Perhaps one of the Toc H contributions to 1985 — the International Year of Youth — could be to re-write the Four Points.

Ruth Wallner  
London

### Point Three

I was very interested in the letter from Timothy Lineham in your August issue and can fully understand how he feels about not getting comfort and spiritual help from our magazine. Over the years, it has altered considerably. I realise that it is important to draw in the younger generation and some Branches are doing excellent work, but *Point Three* has turned to political matters, which we hear so repeatedly, on TV and in the Press: in doing this, we are going away from all our beloved Tubby worked for.

The July number was the best we have had for a very long time and the reading contained inspiration and spiritual comfort and I hope Timothy



Opinions expressed in these columns (including any editorial comment) are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement. We reserve the right to edit letters. Only letters carrying the correspondent's full name and address will be considered for publication.

Lineham read it. It defined the old phrase of Tubby's 'To think fairly, love widely, build bravely and witness humbly'. But even that wording is altered on page 2, of *Point Three* which I feel is a great pity.

Our Branch was an extremely happy, active one in every way and we did a lot for the Movement. But we had to close down in 1977, through deaths and members moving away and the remainder of us became District members. The six of us who are left (aged 82-94) meet once a month in one or other's homes, we have a candle and always commence with Light and Prayers, remembering Toc H worldwide and all who have passed on. Our friendships, formed years ago, have never been broken and are invaluable to each one of us and we look forward to our meeting together in this way. We still feel we belong to Toc H; we cherish our happy memories; we take part in the World Chain of Light and Michaelmas; and we attend Communion together once a month...

Naomi Parris  
West Worthing

Congratulations on August *Point Three*. We found it not only interesting, but most uplifting. Please send 14 more copies...

Love to you all at Wendover.

Ruby Osborne  
Fleet, Hants

### World Chain of Light

Browsing through some old Area Festival programmes last year, I came across an account of the origins of the World Chain of Light. I challenged the members of my own Branch and none of them had any clear idea. So, as a reminder to those who have been around a long time and possibly as new information to those who have joined us more recently, here is the story.

The first suggestion for the observance came from Toc H Australia in 1929, and the first 'link' in the Chain was forged that year by the lighting of the Lamp at Perth, Western Australia. In 1930 the Chain started from Talbot House in Poperinge; in 1931 from the Cathedral of Johannesburg; from 1932 to 1936 from the Old House in Flanders. In 1937 the Chain started from the Lamp of India in Calcutta Cathedral. It was lit there at 9 am by standard Indian Railway time, which is about six hours earlier than 9 pm in England.

The Chain of Light reminds members all over the world, during one particular 24 hours of the year, of their

unity in Toc H, using a piece of symbolism which is both simple and striking. Each unit 'stands to' its Lamp or Rushlight and holds the Ceremony of Light at 9 pm by its own local time. The effect of this, as the earth rotates on its axis in the course of 24 hours, is a succession of lights springing up from East to West, which girdles the globe. The light which started from Calcutta at 9 pm on December 11 and was passed on to one unit after another westwards, was, so to speak, received back in Calcutta at 9 pm on December 12 after its world wide journey. It is a Chain, forged link by link, which reminds members, many of whom will never meet face to face, of the bond of fellowship in service which makes them one family in Toc H.

It was a year or two after the first occasion when the Ceremony became linked with the Birthday of Toc H itself (December 11) and that of Tubby (December 12).

The Ceremony has been held annually ever since, starting from widely different locations, and this year (1984) the first Lamp will be lit once more in the Old House in Poperinge.

Ted Curry  
Northampton

### The Old House

In your July issue you printed a letter from Harry Woolaston about Tom Kennedy and the Old House. For some years I have had the pleasure of joining Tom's Scottish party on their visits to Poperinge. There was not a field from the Somme to the Ypres Salient that Tom didn't know. We would tour most of the Western Front and Tom could tell you just where the Front Line began and ended. It was always an education to be with him... We hope to go again this year - sadly without Tom, though he will be with us all the way in spirit... He was a very fine man.

Iris L Long  
Weston-super-Mare

### Rededication Services

Revd Malcolm ('Polly') Perkins and Revd C D Elliott have recently compiled revised forms for Toc H Rededication Services. There are two versions - series A and series B.

In June, members of our Branch joined others from Thanet District at the Rededication Service of the Ramsgate Branches. Series A was used and all present were impressed by it.

In July, we held our own

Rededication Service and this was attended by other Thanet Branches and by Branches from SE Kent District. We used series B and those present described it as 'impressive' and 'inspiring'.

Both these sets of views have been confirmed in later conversation and correspondence. As a result, my Branch (Margate Men) has asked me to write to commend to other Branches both series A and series B - but especially series B. Copies are available from: Revd M B Perkins, 20 Gordon Terrace, Rochester, Kent ME1 1SB (Price £2 for 50 plus £1 postage).

Christian Phillips  
Margate

### Temperance in all!

This modern theory 'enjoy everything to the full' is perniciously evil. Temperance is one of the basic rules of the 'survival of the fittest'. The incontinent use of sex (like smoking, alcohol and drug abuse) leads to ill health, weakness of character, lust, and often crime.

The Bible tells us this plainly, and woe to the world that goes on ignoring its words...

Fred Pitfield-Bailey  
Bideford

### Violence on picket lines

I refer to your anti-miner *Personal View* (August issue).

I must first declare my interest. I am a cockney who married a County Durham miner's daughter over 40 years ago so I am familiar with the mining communities. My father-in-law and brother-in-law were face workers, and both died in their early fifties, the latter at the coal face.

Your article should have begun at the point in your last paragraph 'I don't underestimate the real concern underlying the miners' claims.' You could then have developed the fact that pit closures, and men moving to other pits have gone on for years through successive governments by negotiations.

The present strike started at the Cortonwood Colliery in Yorkshire which had a declared five year life, with men moving from other pits being given assurance of tenure. Miners were given a few weeks' notice of closure and what has happened since does not diminish this injustice. Violence, from whatever source has to be condemned, but it cannot be stopped by more violence. What did you say on this? 'Naturally there is always the danger that a policeman under attack or



# Open Forum continued

*seeing colleagues injured, may lose his head and respond with unnecessary violence'. What of the miners? Do you understand them for the same reasons?*

*What has happened to the human (Christian) debate 'People before Profit and Compassion before Competition'?*

**W Arthur Pledge**  
*Hemel Hempstead*

**Note:** I'm sorry that Arthur sees the August 'Personal View' as 'anti-miner': that was not my intention. I tried to set out fairly what seem to be the fixed positions taken up by both sides, but this was not the main theme. The point I was making was the grave danger of allowing any sectional interest — whatever their strength of feeling — to disregard the Common Law and to achieve their ends by using huge and threatening crowds and violent behaviour. When the police move against such crowds in order to uphold the law, they are acting as the agents of us all. The level of force used by the police must be the minimum possible in the light of all the circumstances but their overriding duty is to see that the law is kept. As I said, should any police officer use unreasonable force, he can and should be held to account. But the responsibility for all the violence starts and remains with the law breakers, not with those reacting in our name to uphold the law. I believe that position holds whoever is concerned — even the miners!

What do you think? — Editor

## 'Family Project'

In early August a group of younger volunteers and members, plus a few staff, spent a weekend informally discussing the future of projects.

One idea that seemed to merit further attention was the idea of a 'Family Project', to enable those families with young children to attend and help with a work project. For example, we might recruit six families to come and tackle a week of conservation work in the countryside, and, at the same time, recruit six young volunteers to run a daily creche/playscheme, to entertain and care for the children while parents were freed to get on with the work. The children would return to family units in the evenings, of course, and spend the nights there.

Various accommodation ideas were suggested. Could we recruit six families with caravans? Or tents? Or could we find, cheaply, premises in which

families could have privacy at night?

To start the ball rolling, may I ask if any readers are interested in this sort of scheme, and, if so, will they please write to me, at Kyrle House, Edde Cross Street, Ross-on-Wye HR9 7BZ. We can then gauge the interest, and see if we can mount a pilot scheme in 1985.

**John Mitchell**  
*Ross-on-Wye*

## Another satisfied customer!

I am a member of Toc H WA, Dunedin, New Zealand, visiting Britain. I read in *Point Three* an advertisement for Mr and Mrs Baxter's guest house in North Wales (see small ads on back page) and made a July booking. I am writing now to recommend this guest house to *Point Three* readers. Conwy is a really lovely place to visit and the guest house has a most friendly atmosphere and superb meals.

Greetings to you all from Dunedin WA. We are still doing our bit, especially in our Older Citizens Club.

**Alma Gordon**  
*London (at present!)*

## Infant Schools

I don't think the suggestion of your correspondent from America, Margaret McGettrick, (August issue) that children should not start school until they are eight would work here.

The British children I have met lately have been working hard to conquer reading from the age of three. I don't think they would be at all satisfied to wait until eight to go to school.

Teachers who have taught Americans tell me that they appear to be late developers, compared with British children of the same age. Yet their

parents are delighted with this progress, and say that they will be far ahead of their American cousins when they return to the States.

Late developers usually catch up quickly, and could afford to start later.

As the rate of illiteracy in this country shows, the teaching of reading in infant schools has deteriorated rapidly recently, so parents may soon need to provide 'home schools' to supplement the teaching in school. 'Open plan' schools, with no blackboards cannot keep up the old standards.

**Mrs C A Jenkins**  
*Haverfordwest*

## Vascular & Open Heart Association

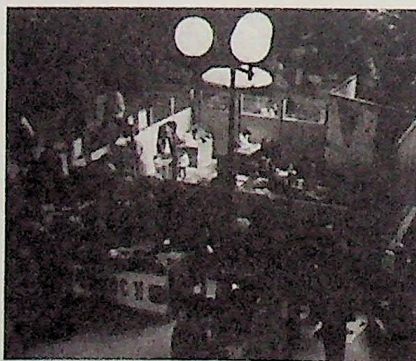
I have been encouraged by a long standing Toc H friend to write to you in order to draw your members' attention to the formation of the above Association of which I am Chairman. It has been set up by a group of us concerned at discovering the high proportion of people in the United Kingdom suffering from heart disease — in particular from angina and from the dreaded intermittent claudication...

The Association's aims are to offer help to sufferers and to campaign for the provision of a vascular laser machine which could help many people in the future save one or both of their legs. (IC produces atheroma of the main arteries from the abdomen downwards which can limit activity and occasionally produce gangrene).

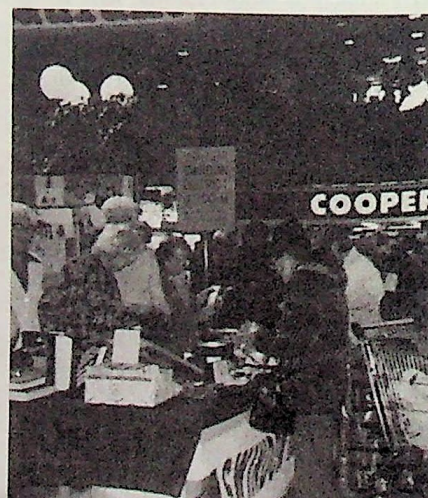
Please contact me if you would like to help in any way.

**T Kelly**  
*Prestatyn*

**Note:** I will forward any letters you may wish to send to Mr Kelly. — Editor



*In June, Swindon District ran a stall at the West Swindon Centre and raised nearly £80 for the projects fund from which they finance their outings for the disabled.*



*Photos: David Pope*



# We will Remember...

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

## In May

A J Roberts (West Essex District)

## In June

Ruth Bolland (Thornaby)  
William W 'Billy' Evans (Chirk)  
Arthur Hobbs (Palace Green)

## In July

S Gilbert Bartlett (Gloucester)  
Denis Beavis (Bexhill on Sea)  
George W Bruton (Hitchin)  
Revd Frank N Mitchell (Paignton)  
Norris Ramsden (South East Hants District)

## In August

Kenneth L Burgess (Mochdre)  
Bewsey B Dyke (Dorset Border)  
Frank E Hutchins (Sandown/Shanklin)

## Apologies

In our September issue we reported the death of Dennis A Swift (Stockport District). The information was extracted from the current Branch Roll which, in this case, was wrong. We are delighted to say that Dennis is very much alive and in excellent form. Indeed he is working hard right now as Treasurer of the 1984 District project.

Reginald Stewart died in June after a six month illness. He was 71. Reg, a well loved member of field staff, served in Scotland from 1960-65, when he moved to Australia. With his continuing interest in the voluntary movement, he helped

form the Voluntary Bush Fire Brigade. (There are now 2,500 Brigade units in New South Wales.) We give thanks for his life and pray for May, his widow.

KRR

Jack Mason (Hayes, Kent, Branch) died in June at the age of 68. A stalwart member for 30 years, Jack always supported and often initiated Branch activities wholeheartedly. He was also engaged with other organisations, for his experience and active involvement in local affairs were keenly appreciated. He was a man to be relied on and a good friend to all of us who knew him... His family and friends, both within and outside Toc H miss him sorely. We shall long remember his kindness, thoughtfulness and enthusiasm...

BB

George Bruton (Hitchin Men's Branch) died in July. George's untiring efforts produced the Social Club for the Blind — he was always alert to the needs of blind people. A kind and gentle man, George will be sadly missed by his many friends.

Also in July, Mrs Olive Dibden died in Chepstow. Olive had been a faithful member of Chepstow Women's Branch for more than 20 years and all local members miss her greatly.

Doug Ward writes to tell us that Revd Frank Mitchell, Padre to the Paignton Branches for many years, died in July at the age of 87. Frank 'was well loved and respected by all who knew him. He...

carried his message and way of life without any sign of doing so...

Lucy Bartlett, a founder member in 1942 of the former Sevenoaks Women's Branch, died recently. In 1962 she helped found St John's (Sevenoaks) Women's Branch and held office — particularly as Branch Treasurer. Lucy had been ill for some years but retained a keen interest in Toc H affairs.

David Lloyd Williams writes to tell us of the recent sudden death of Ken Burgess, of Mochdre (Clwyd) Joint Branch. Ken's total service to the Movement covered more than 40 years. He moved to North Wales in 1977 and worked for Toc H wholeheartedly at Branch, District and Area level. At his funeral service, every Branch in the District was represented and more than 60 Toc H members were present. David says: '... We quickly became firm friends... I will miss Ken — he will be hard to replace... We shall certainly remember him... We send our sincere sympathy to his wife Frances and his whole family.'

We have just learned of the sudden death in August of Harold Webster — a member since 1924. Harold and his wife had been staunch members of Bakewell Branch until failing health forced them to resign in 1981.

We give thanks for their lives

## Thought for the Month

### 'PRAISE FOR TOIL WORN HANDS'

by Revd Richard Fox

One day Jesus was invited to eat at the house of Simon the Leper. During the meal, a woman of Bethany came in and showed her great love of Christ by anointing him with some very precious ointment. Some criticised her actions, but Jesus commended her because she had done what she could.

All of us as believers must also give the best we have. I know that we in Toc H in Basingstoke try to do our best. If our lives are filled with self sacrificing love for the Lord and his people, we are sure to receive His smile of approval and eternal rewards.

When, on one occasion, I visited the local hospital, a girl of 16 lay dying. Her life had not been easy, for she had lost her mother when she was only 12 years old and she herself had now contracted leukaemia. I saw her in what turned out to be the last week of her life. I asked 'Are you afraid to die, my dear?' 'Oh no!' she whispered 'But what shall I say to Jesus when I meet him? You know that after my mother died I tried to follow her example. I took care of my four little brothers and sisters during the day while Dad was at work. I kept the house tidy and did the washing, but by then I was too tired to do anything more.' I'm afraid

I couldn't hold back the tears as I took the girl's frail rough hands in mine and said, 'My child, when you reach heaven, don't say anything. Just show Jesus your toil worn hands! I'm sure he'll understand and say "Well done my child".'

You may not be able to accomplish great things for God by human standards. But like that young girl (and the woman of Bethany), just do what you can with a willing heart and one day you'll be praised by the Master for your faithfulness.

Perhaps we in Toc H today have a pressing need but just don't know how we're going to meet it. Then trust the Lord. If we are doing His will, we can be sure that He will provide. No matter what may be the test, God will take care of you...

Work well done for Christ will always receive a 'well done' from Christ.



# Small Ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 5p a word (minimum 50p) to Point Three Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover. Telephone: 0296 623911.

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